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FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER
CITE: WHS1045

SITUATION ROOM

MAY 20, 1971

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SAIGON 094. BEFORE POSING ALTERNATE DATE OF JUNE 7 TO PRESIDENT, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT I KNOW THAT PRESIDENT THIEU DOES NOT REPEAT NOT PLAN TO PROMULGATE THE ELECTION LAW IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. IF THIS IS THE PLAN, IT WOULD BE MOST TROUBLESOME FROM THIS END. PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR BEST JUDGMENT ON WHAT YOU THINK THIEU IS UP TO BEFORE I DISCUSS JUNE 6 OR ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE WITH THE PRESIDENT. YOU SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE, GO TO THIEU AGAIN BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE YOUR BEST JUDGMENT OF WHAT IS IN STORE BEFORE I APPROACH THE PRESIDENT AGAIN.
WARM REGARDS.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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VIA CAS BACK CHANNEL

WHS 1045

May 20, 1971

FOR: AMBASSADOR BUNKER

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

[Handwritten signature/initials]

Thank you for your Saigon 094. Before posing alternate date of June 7 to President, it is essential that I know that President Thieu does not repeat not plan to promulgate the election law immediately following his meeting with President Nixon. If this is the plan, it would be most troublesome from this end. Please give me your best judgment on what you think Thieu is up to before I discuss June 6 or any other alternative with the President. You should not, of course, go to Thieu again but it would be helpful to have your best judgment of what is in store before I approach the President again.

Warm regards.

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